

Yellow Southend Advertiser

Week ending Friday March 8, 2019

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VETERAN: Douglas Meyers

Photo: Yui Mok/PA Wire



HOPE FOR WAR HERO

A BLIND 97-year-old Second World War veteran embroiled in a High Court battle because he wants to leave a care facility might be able to return home.

Former Royal Navy gunner Douglas Meyers, who lives near Southend, told a judge he was unhappy in the care facility and wanted to end his life in the bungalow which was his home for 40 years.

Mr Justice Hayden has concluded that the "ideal solution" would be for Mr Meyers to return home with a "suitable package of support".

He outlined his thinking in a ruling

after analysing evidence in a trial at the Family Division of the High Court earlier this month.

The judge, based in London, oversaw the hearing in a Southend courtroom normally used by magistrates so Mr Meyers could attend.

Mr Meyers, who served in the Italian and north African theatres during the 1940s, sat in a wheelchair at the front of the court wearing a row of campaign medals.

Social services bosses at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council have welfare responsibility for Mr Meyers and lawyers representing

the council had asked the judge to make a decision about what was in the veteran's best interests.

Two lawyers – barrister Parishil Patel QC and solicitor Laura Hobey-Hamsher, who works for law firm Bindmans – represented the pensioner for free.

Both sets of lawyers agreed that Mr Meyers, a widower who turns 98 this month, had the mental capacity to make decisions.

Barrister Katie Scott, who led the council's legal team, said he had gone into the care facility a few months ago after being found in difficult circumstances at home.

She said the case was "extraordinarily difficult".

Mr Meyers had rejected offers of care at his home, and social services bosses had taken the view that they could not "force" care on him.

Mr Patel told the judge: "His instructions are quite clear – he wants to go home."

Mr Meyers did not address Mr Justice Hayden at the trial, but he spoke to the judge by telephone at preliminary hearings.

"I am a veteran and I am due the respect of a veteran who wants to end his life in his home," he said.

● Turn to page 3

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Call for council to look at impact of homes on A127

by Steve Shaw

BBC Local democracy reporter

BASILDON Council will call on Southend to consider how the A127 will cope with increased congestion as a result of a major housing plan.

Southend Council is creating a Local Plan which requires it to find space for up to 24,000 homes over a 20-year period, as well as create up to 12,000 jobs.

Ahead of a strategic planning and infrastructure committee meeting in Basildon, the council has published a report which raises concerns about the plan, particularly for the way it could impact Basildon residents who use the A127.

Southend has put forward three different options for the way it could build homes to meet its targets, but Basildon says only one would work.

That option would require the creation of an entirely new settlement on green belt land to the north of Southchurch and Thorpe Bay.

This would have a "significant" impact on the road network particularly on the A127, according to the Basildon report, which stresses the need for a model that details how Southend's plan will impact the entire length of the A127, which stretches from Southend to Rochford.

This model could be created through



CONGESTION: Junction of Bell House Lane and the A127

a wider joint strategic plan that will be produced in collaboration with local authorities across south Essex.

"Due to the potential impacts it would have on the A127, Basildon Borough Council would expect the impacts of this proposal on the strategic road network to be tested through a transport model that covers the whole length of the A127, or ideally the whole extent of the south Essex area," the report states. "Anything less is unlikely to effectively capture the full extent of the impacts of this proposal, and consequently fail to mitigate impacts beyond the most local ones."

Further A127 concerns are raised in relation to tourism. Basildon claims that when looking at encouraging visi-

tors to the seafront, Southend is focusing heavily on car-based journeys such as park and ride and this may also "exacerbate congestion on the strategic road network".

The council says that when assessing schemes linked to tourism, Southend should be doing it with the entirety of the A127 in mind and not just on local issues.

Speaking of the Local Plan proposals, Cllr James Courtenay, cabinet member for growth, said: "It highlights a number of overarching issues and questions to generate responses and help us develop possible solutions to our infrastructure-led expansion."

"These include the critical need for significant improvements to our trans-

port infrastructure and the challenges we face to meet our housing need in an already developed area.

"This could, for example, include an outer bypass for any new urban extensions or settlements and further junction upgrade work."

"The report highlights that if option two or three were taken forward in the future, further work will be required to determine what road routes could be accommodated."

"We welcome the comments from Basildon Council and look forward to receiving their formal response."

"We are also working with them and authorities across the area to ensure we all have a joined-up approach to individual local plans as part of our wider work to collectively develop a joint strategic plan for south Essex."

Basildon is creating its own Local Plan and at the same meeting, committee members will discuss the conclusion of a public consultation that is the final stage before submitting the plan to the secretary of state by the end of March.

The plan has faced several major setbacks resulting in it being under threat of government intervention.

If the council does not submit the plan by the end of March, it could mean civil servants taking over and deciding where more than 20,000 homes will be

NEWS IN BRIEF

● A MAN has denied the murder of his mother who was found dead outside her seaside nursing home in Westcliff.

June Knight, 79, suffered fatal injuries at Langley Lodge Nursing Home.

Police were called to the property at about 10pm on December 10.

Robert Knight, 52, denied her murder when he appeared before Basildon Crown Court for a brief hearing on Friday.

The bearded defendant, of The Fairway, Leigh, is due to return to the court on May 8 for his trial, estimated to last five days.

● CANDIDATES have been announced to contest a by-election for a seat representing Milton ward on Southend Council.

The by-election, on March 21, is taking place following the death of former councillor Julian Ware-Lane.

The candidates are: Stephen George (Labour), from Southend; Garry Lowen (Conservative), from Southend; James Quail (The For Britain Movement), from Shoeburyness; Carol White (Liberal Democrat), from Westcliff.

● A CHARITY project that helps isolated elderly people will be extended to Shoeburyness.

A grant of almost £100,000 was allocated from the Building Connections Fund towards the Folk Like Us project.

The cash was secured by Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) and will enable Turning Tides, which delivers the project, to reach Shoebury residents.

For more, contact Turning Tides on 01702 356070 or turningtides@savs-southend.co.uk.

Two more face murder charges

TWO more men have been charged with the murder of Southend man Courtney Valentine-Brown.

Stuart Pearson, 43, of Satanita Road, Westcliff, appeared before Southend magistrates on Saturday and was due to appear at Basildon Crown Court on Tuesday.

Alex Stephens, 36, of Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff, appeared at Chelmsford

Crown Court on Friday, also charged with Mr Valentine-Brown's murder.

He is due to appear at Basildon Crown Court on April 17, with Ian Slater, 49, of Wayletts, Leigh-on-Sea, who is also charged with murder.

Mr Valentine-Brown, 36, was found injured at a property on Roots Hall Drive on February 21. He died in hospital as a result of a stab wound to the leg.

Blind veteran's fight to live at home

From front page

"I did six years in the Navy during the war. I think I deserve some respect at my age. I still have my senses. I know what I am doing. I am strong enough to look after myself."

Mr Justice Hayden described Mr Meyers as an "extraordinary man".

Social services bosses said they had "discharged their obligations" to Mr

Meyers under legislation relating to social care and human rights.

But Mr Justice Hayden disagreed and suggested more could be done.

"I do not intend to be prescriptive as to what the local authority should do," he said in his ruling.

"The ideal solution, it seems to me, would be for Mr Meyers to return to his bungalow with a suitable package of support."

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NEWS

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Rise in under-17s facing driving bans

by Steve Shaw

BBC Local democracy reporter

THE number of children under 17 and facing driving bans is on the rise across Essex, DVLA figures show.

Freedom of information data show since 2015, 67 children were caught driving and disqualified before they can legally drive. Of those, 13 were aged between 13 and 14.

Last year the number reached its highest point in the past four years, with 20 disqualifications including eleven 16-year-olds, five 15-year-olds two 14-year-olds and two 13-year-olds.

This was an increase on all previous years, with 12 disqualifications recorded in 2017, 19 disqualifications in 2016 and 15 in 2015. Most have been banned from the roads for around 12 months, but some have been hit with the largest disqualification of two years, including a 14-year-old in 2016.

A spokesperson for Essex Police said: "While the majority of road offences in Essex are committed by fully licensed drivers, we have on a few occasions stopped underage drivers.

"Experienced roads policing officers are trained to identify driving behaviours, including underage drivers who have never been behind the wheel of a vehicle before.

"There have also been occasions where we have stopped moped riders,



DANGEROUS: Since 2015, 67 children – 13 of whom were aged 13 to 14 – have been caught in Essex driving and disqualified before they can legally drive

aged under 17, who can legally ride these vehicles but have committed offences.

"Offences involving underage drivers are rare. However, we continue to take them seriously and we will look to bring them court to face sentence and a possible ban."

Government guidelines state that you can apply for a provisional driving licence when you are 15 years and nine months old and can start driving at the age of 17 after passing a driving test.

Moped riders can be 16 but must also pass a practical and theory test.

Last year, the RAC warned that more than 1,000 children aged 16 and under had been banned from the roads nationally in 2017 and called underage drivers a "frightening danger to other road users".

The national data published at the time also showed a sharp increase in underage drivers from 696 in 2014 to 1,024 in 2017.

Essex Police said that anyone with information about underage driving should call them on 101 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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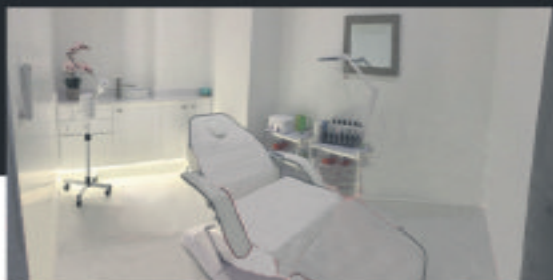
Thu:	0055	5.60	1320	5.70
Fri:	0126	5.70	1350	5.70
Sat:	0157	5.70	1421	5.70
Sun:	0228	5.70	1451	5.60
Mon:	0258	5.60	1522	5.50
Tue:	0329	5.50	1554	5.30
Wed:	0405	5.40	1632	5.20

High tide at Tilbury:

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Fri:	0159	6.30	1424	6.40
Sat:	0230	6.40	1454	6.40
Sun:	0301	6.40	1524	6.30
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Santa Flights give charities cash lift

THOUSANDS of pounds has been shared between Essex charities that was raised from Santa Flights at Southend Airport.

A total of £14,000 was distributed between 12 charities following the two flights, which around 160 children enjoyed in December.

Representatives from each charity attended a hotel at the airport to receive their cheques last week.

Glyn Jones, chief executive officer of airport owners Stobart Aviation, said: "These charities are all great examples of projects being run in the communities served by Southend Airport and I am proud that we can play our part in helping them to continue their admirable work."

One of the charities that received a share of the money raised was Southend Hospital Charity.

Elise Fleetwood, the charity's corporate relations manager, said: "The money donated will be used to purchase a trauma transfer board for our accident and emergency department.

"Designed for fast and safe patient immobilization and the transfer of trauma patients between emergency areas of the hospital, the trauma board will greatly enhance patient care and improve the lives of hospital staff too."



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By one of South England's Leading Knee Pain Experts, Wendy McCloud.

If you or a loved one suffer from chronic knee pain, so bad that it can even stop you from walking or getting out of the chair, then reading this report may be the most important thing you do this year. It may unlock the agonising mystery of your knee pain and show you a way to get back to the life you deserve before knee pain struck.

A life where you can **sleep at night** without tossing and turning, hoping to find just one position where the pain stops

A life where you can **wake up in the morning** and not take 20 minutes to get out of bed...and then another 20 minutes to put on your socks and shoes, always restricted by a knee so stiff and tight.

A life where you can **pick up and play with your children/grandchildren** without worrying when your knee is going to 'give out' and leave you crippled on the floor or stuck in the chair.

A life where you can do and enjoy all the things you see so many others doing and enjoying but your bad knee has kept you watching from the sidelines. Basically, a life without the curse of **knee pain**.

Finally, one of the nation's leading knee pain experts Wendy McCloud who has already helped 1000s of people over the last 12 years with her knee-pain recovery advice has released a FREE 12 page '**Knee Pain Consumer Awareness**' report, that reveals the best kept secrets on knee pain...How to actually get to the bottom of knee pain without having to visit the Doctor or needing to take gut rotting painkillers.

Knee Pain "Truths" Finally Exposed!

This report exposes how pain medications and anti-inflammatories might be just easy for a doctor to prescribe but may not necessarily be right for you in the long run... Have you seen the list of crippling side effects these days?

This 100% FREE report is entitled "7 Simple Ways To Stop Daily, Annoying Knee Pain... Without Painkillers, Injections, Surgery Or Having To Wear A Knee Support." (Value £58!) reveals the leading causes of knee pain. This report is for individuals who are fed up with knee pain side-lining them from their active lifestyle.

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Public bodies refuse to reveal records of case linked to establishment cover-up claims

YA alerts data watchdog in fight to see files

EXCLUSIVE**by Charles Thomson***basildon@yellowad.co.uk*

ESSEX County Council last week confirmed that records of meetings held during a Southend paedophile ring investigation have gone missing from its archive.

The documents recorded the meetings of the Southend Child Protection Committee, which was scrutinising the official response to major safeguarding issues.

In May 1989, police uncovered perhaps the biggest safeguarding issue to have ever hit Southend.

Dennis King and Brian Tanner, both now dead, were arrested and charged with running what was dubbed the Shoebury Sex Ring.

By June 1989, there were 14 young

victims. They named other children linked to the paedophiles, who in turn were interviewed and named others.

By mid-1990, the number of suspected victims had quadrupled.

In May 1990, King and Tanner were jailed for being the leaders of a paedophile ring which abused dozens of children.

The child protection committee minutes for this entire period have disappeared from the county council's archive. The meetings before King and Tanner's arrests are there.

The minutes after they were convicted are too. But everything from the duration of the case has vanished.

For almost four years, the *Yellow Advertiser* had been working with whistleblowing former child protection workers, who each had a professional connection with the case and had grave concerns about

the way it was handled.

They are familiar with the phenomenon of Shoebury Sex Ring documents vanishing.

Files started going missing within months of King and Tanner's arrests.

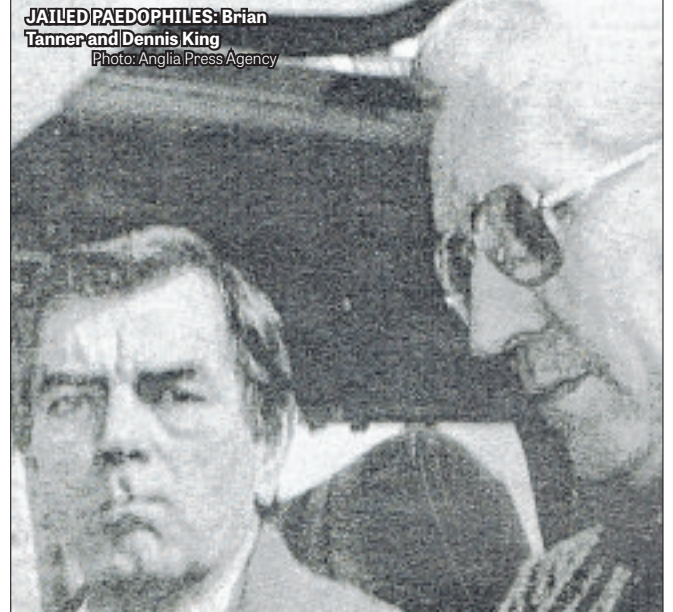
Police showed up at one charity worker's home in 1990 and demanded paperwork on the Shoebury ring – but by then they had already hidden it to prevent any dark forces from making it disappear.

A second charity involved in the case had break-ins and its files were disturbed.

Evidence even disappeared from police custody. A notebook seized from King's flat, containing names and addresses in London and references to "tykes", went missing and was never seen again.

Paperwork from the Shoebury case had such a tendency to go missing that

JAILED PAEDOPHILES: Brian Tanner and Dennis King
Photo: Anglia Press Agency



the whistleblowers stashed copies with contacts in different countries.

Their reports, minutes and correspondence represents the only surviving comprehensive record of the case.

It contains huge amounts of intelligence given to them by the child victims; allegations of a widescale paedophile network, of dodgy social workers and of police corruption.

The whistleblowers remain so frightened that it will be stolen they continue to keep back-up copies

hidden and have registered a set with a lawyer.

Meanwhile, almost every official document connected to the case has either been destroyed or gone missing – from police files to court records to council records.

The little information which does survive, the authorities refuse to publish.

For almost four years, the *YA* has battled with public bodies to try to obtain official records from the case, with little success.

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IT all started in November 2014, when the *YA* discovered the county council had recently authorised 10 out-of-court settlements for alleged historic abuse.

Our attempts to obtain basic details about the payments such as the nature of the alleged abuse and whether the council reported the claims to police, were blanked. County Hall refused to answer a single question.

Our reports on the mysterious payments prompted the first Shoebury whistleblower to walk into our office and tell us his story. Within a year, there were two more.

The *YA* introduced them to the police and crime commissioner.

By March 2016, police had announced a formal review of the Shoebury case.

In April 2016, the *YA* tried to obtain records from King and Tanner's prosecution. Chelmsford Crown Court searched its archive and reported that every trace of the case was missing.

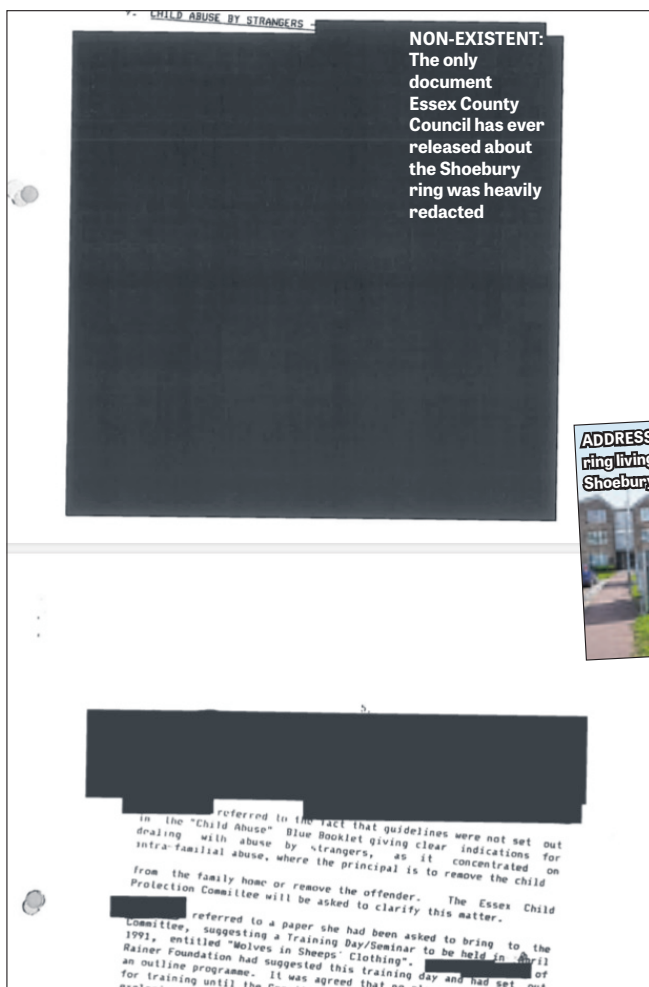
A bewildered court officer said that while it was not unusual for detailed records of old cases to be destroyed, in this case even the brief records which are usually kept permanently were missing from the vault.

In 2017, after concluding its review of the Shoebury case, Essex Police claimed it had checked its records and found no evidence of corruption.

But when questioned by the *YA*, a senior officer admitted there had been almost no records to check.

The paperwork had been destroyed. All that remained were some brief entries on a rudimentary police computer system from 30 years ago.

As one whistleblower commented: "What did they expect to find on there? A corrupt police officer is hardly going to type in, 'Destroyed some evidence today'."



Last year, the *YA* submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to Essex Police, asking for details of how it conducted its Shoebury review and copies of all the associated paperwork.

The law states public bodies must answer FOIs within 20 working days.

The *YA* has been waiting eight months for a response.

An identical request to the police and crime commissioner's office, requesting every piece of data it held about the Shoebury review, resulted in the release of just four emails.

Extracting information from the county council has been similarly difficult. The *YA* has fought two lengthy FOI battles with County Hall, both



now the subject of formal complaints.

Last year, the *YA* requested records from the Essex Child Protection Committee (which supervised the Southend committee, whose minutes have gone missing).

After 73 working days, the county council wrote back claiming that in 2004, the child protection committee had been replaced by the Safeguarding Children Board, which had taken custody of all the records and did not come under the council's jurisdiction.

Within hours, the *YA* had contacted the head of safeguarding at the SCB, who stated: "I can confirm, categorically, that when the SCB formed, it didn't have access to or take ownership of any child protection committee

minutes." The *YA* filed an appeal.

After another 39 working days, the county council supplied minutes it had previously claimed it didn't have but the only section which looked like it might have been about the Shoebury case was redacted.

The *YA* has formally complained to the Information Commissioner.

This newspaper's second ongoing battle with County Hall is over a document known as the Kenward Report.

In 1999, the county council contracted consultant Helen Kenward to investigate historic allegations that council staff had abused, or facilitated the abuse of, vulnerable children.

The council has kept Kenward's report under lock and key ever since.

At least one witness gave evidence to Kenward about the Shoebury case, alleging an establishment cover-up.

But the county council refuses to release the report to the *YA*, claiming there is no public interest in its contents and that asking for it is "vexatious".

The *YA* has again complained to the Information Commissioner.

In January, weeks after King died of Aids, the *YA* uncovered and published evidence he had been secretly working as an Essex Police informant while the force was supposed to be investigating his crimes.

We asked the Crown Prosecution Service for a copy of his criminal convictions and sentences.

It is known King had convictions in every decade since the 1950s and was convicted of more than 30 sex offences.

The CPS claimed it only had records of six of King's prosecutions and it wouldn't release them because doing so might upset King's relatives.

The *YA* has appealed that decision and has seven requests for information lodged with six public bodies.

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No parent should go through this

IS this the future we wanted for our kids?

When my first born arrived in 1986 – a time of IRA bombs, Ronald Reagan, Thatcher, a failed miners' strike that beat an entire industry into submission with batons, Aids – the world already felt unsafe and it would have been easy to foresee a future where the division between the haves and have nots had become even greater.

But I could not, even in my darkest moments, have envisaged a world where jihadists fly into skyscrapers or blow themselves up in the lobby of a venue where innocent youngsters had been enjoying a concert and children kill each other with guns and knives purely to enhance their own reputation.

I was a child of the '60s. At weekends or during school holidays I could easily disappear with my friends for a whole day, climbing trees, exploring empty building sites, cycling across the death trap that was "Red Bonk" (excuse the Black Country accent) – I don't know what it was made of, but if you dug a hole in it, smoke would billow out – and be back in time for dinner (apart from the time I broke my wrist over there, so obviously that day I was home early).

We knew not to talk to

strangers and that if someone offered us sweets or said he had some puppies and would we like to see them, we should just run. Ian Brady and Myra Hindley's mugshots on the black and white TV were enough to embed that rule deep into our brains.

And even as '70s teenagers – when football violence was at its height – the concept of going out and never coming back was just unheard of.

By the time my children reached the equivalent ages there was no way on earth they were going anywhere without me knowing where and when they would be back and now they are 32, 22 and 20 in homes of their own, I get even more worried about where they are of an evening or weekend.

Because now the stakes are higher. One crazy second is all it takes and those crazy seconds are becoming more and more common.

You don't have to be involved in gang culture, you don't have to be up to no good – this past weekend proved that. TWICE!

You can be minding your own business one minute and bleeding out the next.

It's now unusual for a few days to go by without someone's child being slaughtered – and unheard of for a week to pass. Even for a

hardened journalist like me it's impossible not to be affected by every new victim. Because first and foremost I'm a parent and it's our worst nightmare.

Society has gone stark raving mad. Would more police on the streets have made a difference? We'll never know. It's a hard fact that the perpetrators of these vile acts don't fear the police in the slightest and they certainly don't fear going to prison.

But the PM's comments on Monday about how there was no proof that the cuts she made to police numbers as Home Secretary correlated with the increase in knife crime were ill-timed.

Two more sets of parents are grieving the loss of a child. Sometimes it's best to say nothing, Theresa.

So how on earth do we tackle this growing wave of deadly violence?

This is a societal problem, throwing money at it is not the answer, but giving kids a viable alternative would be a good start. There are many people out there who are working hard to engage youngsters, to let them know there is a choice and give them the skills and the confidence to have aspirations and to pursue them. This is not the future I wanted for my kids and I don't want my grandkids to have to put up with it.

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- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
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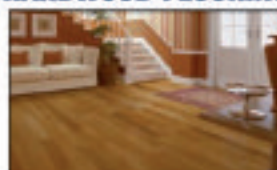
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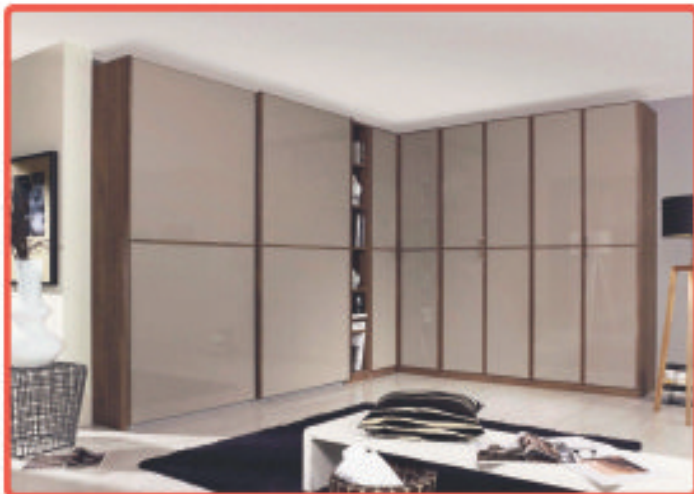
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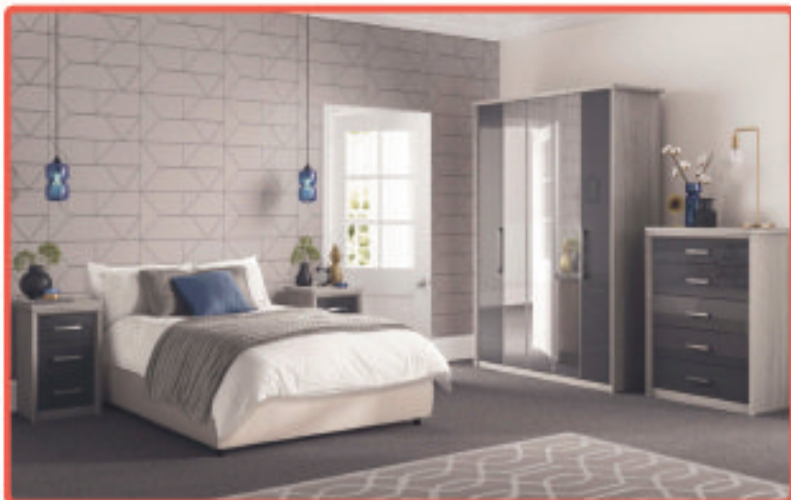
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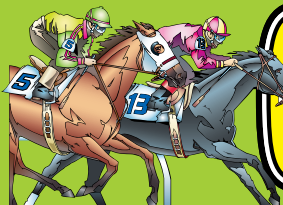


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THANK YOU: The £100,000 cheque is handed over at the Valentine's Ball

Undertakers' cash boost for hospital

A FUNERAL directors has raised more than £135,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Jeremy West, whose firm West & Coe has premises in Leigh, Pitsea and Dagenham, helped organise fundraising events after the hospital saved his granddaughter's life. One-year-old Eva Jem West was diagnosed weeks after her birth in

October 2017 with rare H-type tracheoesophageal fistula, which left her with an abnormal connection between her airway and food pipe.

The life-threatening condition, which affects one in every 100,000 children, meant that every time Eva drank milk it entered her lungs. After surgery in December 2017 she came home in February 2018. Her family set about raising £100,000 for the hospital over the next year, but exceeded their target.

The final event was a Valentine's Ball at Orsett Hall last month, which raised £39,000.

Comedian Hal Crutten performed at the event, which was attended by over 350

guests including hospital staff. Eva helped present staff with a cheque for the £100,000 which had already been raised. Her father Jamie said: "Together with family, friends and businesses, we believe we are paying forward the brilliant care given to us." The family is still collecting for Great Ormond Street, visit www.teameva.co.uk.

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Wake up to the reality of Brexit

LAST week's *Yellow Advertiser* presented us with a smorgasbord of opinions and gripes about the Brexit process.

Leading the way (yet still understanding very little) was Keith Little. The laughable conclusion of his letter is that we've been insulted by the EU (despite two years of idiotic comments about the war from Brits, including from a local MP) and that, "a solution is on the horizon".

Perhaps someone might like to sit him down and explain that the horizon never gets any closer. We've been waiting for two years for the Brexiters to come up with the "sketch of a clue of how to carry out Brexit safely" and we still have nothing but hopes and delusions.

The ever ill-informed Fred Nicholson rages against the Irish border. The Good Friday Agreement requires that there be no physical infrastructure between Northern Ireland and the Republic. This again is threatened by the UK decision to end free movement (although the people of Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU).

By placing ourselves outside the single market and customs union we have created the need for a hard border, like the one Switzerland has.

There are simple solutions, that Northern Ireland or the whole UK stay in the customs union, but the Government's

puppet masters in the DUP and ERG won't accept that. The people of Ireland deserve better than the self-obsessed shambles we have for politicians.

Andrew Summers complains of the red tape created by Brexit. The single market established the "four freedoms" (free movement of goods, people, services and capital) over borders and has reduced red tape by aligning standards.

The UK has now decided to remove itself from the single market and customs union, and by doing so, end free movement. We cannot then complain when movement ceases to be free and frictionless.

One parcel company has reported that it will need to submit 2.4million forms a week to HMRC to continue trading as usual. And that is before applying for international driving licences, ECMT permits etc.

Apparently, we knew what we were voting for and this is it.

At least Paul Devine has a grip on reality when he says that in a negotiation it does not start by you giving the other party everything it asks for.

The UK has told the EU of its intention to leave and is now trying to keep the benefits of membership. That was never tenable and the Brexiters that suggested otherwise should be ashamed of themselves.

We are the national equivalent of a husband filing for divorce and insisting on popping round for nookie and to watch the football when we feel like it.

It's pure fantasy and we need to wake up and smell the coffee (if we can get it through Dover).

**Paul Martin
Rayleigh**

Misunderstood Irish border

THERE is misunderstanding among your correspondents about the Irish border problem.

To clarify the situation, the Good Friday Agreement is a treaty between the British and the Irish governments and political parties of Northern Ireland (except the DUP) and the said treaty is lodged with the United Nations.

A hard border would be unlawful as it would change the existing status and create social and emotional friction such as existed before the treaty, when over 3,600 people lost their lives. Unfortunately, the triggering of Article 50 gave no consideration to the treaty.

**Carol White
Westcliff**

British politics is a soap opera

TO all those wondering what's going on in British politics, especially with Brexit, here is a clue, to help you decode all the twists and turns, last-minute policy pirouettes and mistruths (Irish Backstop ruse notwithstanding).

It is a staged play (some may say a soap opera) with drama

queens and the PM in the role of the wicked witch – where each political actor plays several interchangeable parts, many hamming it up one day and flopping their performance the next, occasionally pretending to be a "good guy", but in reality, they are all villains, including the assorted morons from past charades attempting cameo roles. And now comes the panto moment, when we're all meant to be surprised by revelations, that under no circumstances will they let Brexit happen.

We are all expected to be mildly amused – and go home in the belief, that the magical performance is over, never to be repeated again. Will any of the audience wake up soon?

**Fred Nicholson
Westcliff**

Join the fight to save green belt

WE should all consider the fight against development of green belt land and how it will effect global warming.

Destruction of woodlands, which act as a natural cooling and filtering system will speed up the destruction of the planet.

It is time to take it seriously for the sake of our descendants.

The Government realises

there is a problem and has updated the NPPF to give guidelines to councils, but the public need to make sure our councillors act now.

Councils have no excuse if they allow green belt development and if they do, we must consider the reasons why.

Nature will save the planet if those in authority let it. Our green belt and woodlands are home to insects, animals, and bird life and help clean the air we breathe, so let's keep it safe from those who wish to make a profit from a dying planet.

Government revised NPPF: Local authorities are urged to "exhaust all other reasonable options for development" before considering altering a green belt boundary. It stresses that "considerable evidence" would be needed to alter any such boundary. The framework confirms housing need methodology set out for calculating housing need across different forms and tenures based on factors including affordability.

From November 2018 councils have a housing delivery test focused on driving up the numbers of homes delivered in their area, rather than how many are planned for. This will penalise councils that under-deliver over three years.

The frameworks aims to provide further protection for

biodiversity by aligning the planning system more closely with Defra's 25-year environment plan. It stresses greater importance on air quality when deciding applications and offers more protection for ancient woodland and trees.

**Keith Little
Benfleet**

Making a point on knife crime

LAST week there was an article about shops selling knives to juveniles.

When I was at school in the 1950s I was once told off by my teacher for not carrying a penknife as my pencil had broken and I couldn't continue drawing. How times have changed. In the '60s and '70s I worked in a camping/government surplus shop in Tottenham. We sold knives of all descriptions, sheath knives, throwing knives, Swiss Army knives. We had a strict policy and would only sell knives to youngsters if they were in the scouts.

The government can do more to stop knife crime by making it illegal to sell knives with a pointed tip. This would save many lives.

**John Palmer
Shoeburyness**

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication.

Contributions may be edited for reasons of space or legal considerations.

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

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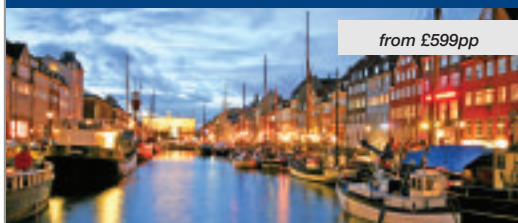
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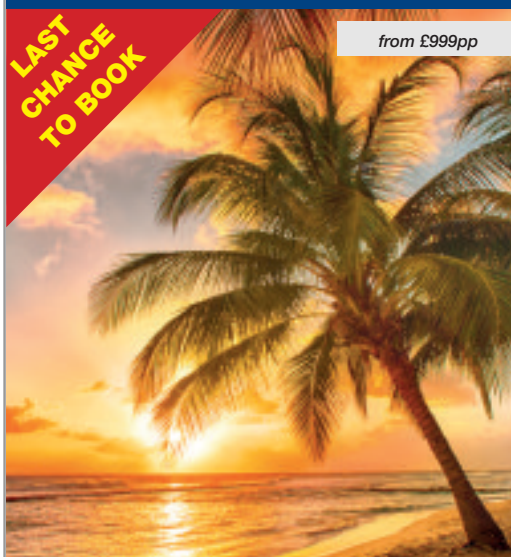
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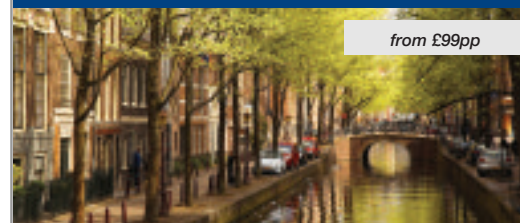
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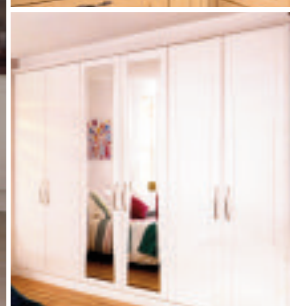
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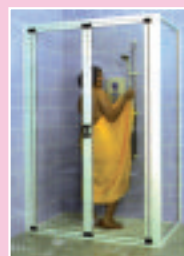
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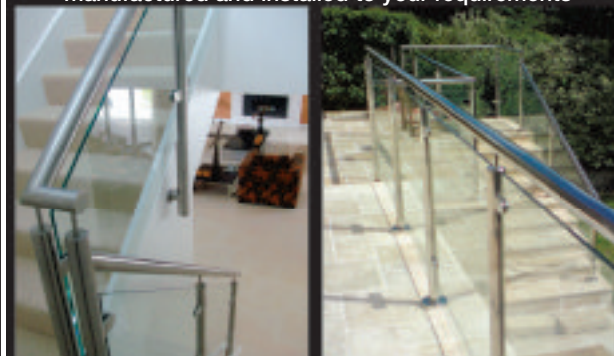
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LIFESTYLE



STAR TURN: Lucy Benjamin who played Lisa Fowler in EastEnders appears in In Basildon

FACING UP TO HOME TRUTHS...

by Lewis Berrill

features@yellowad.co.uk

LOCAL boy David Eldridge is bringing his critically acclaimed 2012 play In Basildon home.

This family drama will run at the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch from March 14 to 30.

In Basildon premiered at London's Royal Court Theatre in 2012.

Romford playwright, Eldridge, describes the show as a juicy slice of Essex family life

EastEnders stalwart, known for playing Lisa Fowler, and Gidea Park local, Lucy Benjamin, is set to star in the production

Directed by Douglas Rintoul, artistic director at the Queen's Theatre, In Basildon follows Len, a die-hard West Ham supporter, who proudly made a career at Ford in Dagenham.

Now he's on his death bed with the nearest and dearest gathered to say goodbye.

His sisters, slogging away on the checkouts at Asda Romford and Tesco Basildon, haven't spoken in 20 years.

Over a ham sandwich spread, old animosities emerge as it's time to read the will.



"I come from a fairly ordinary blue-collar family – skilled working class, Collier Row – and I just felt that you don't often see people like my family or my friends on stage very often," explained Eldridge.

However, despite sharing a similar upbringing to the characters, the show is not autobiographical he says.

"I can only say that I write out of my experience, in the sense that I write a lot from things that I know about because I've experienced them in some way, because I know the world, because I'm from it.

"But although experience always informs what I write, I

rarely have done anything really autobiographical.

"Apart from anything else, I'm far more interested in making stuff up.

"Lived experience is a starting point for me to make stuff up."

Eldridge is looking forward to the show's "homecoming" and expects audiences at the Queen's to have an easier time relating to the play.

"I think the references always really come alive.

"Inevitably an audience in Hornchurch is going to know the world in a way that audiences in Chelsea don't.

"The other thing that's different now is the perspective of the last seven years.

"At the time the family in the play felt let down by the post-97 Labour government and were looking around them and seeing their communities changing a great deal.

"I suppose the context is a bit different now. This was a pre-Brexit play that's now being presented in a world that's trying to deal with the consequences of that."

■ Tickets are available at: <https://www.queens-theatre.co.uk/whats-on/show/in-basildon>.

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While Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow, Zoe Saldana's Gamora and Elizabeth Olsen's Scarlet Witch have sometimes felt sidelined by the comic book giant in the decade since the success of Iron Man changed the landscape of modern cinema, Captain Marvel is finally given a chance to shine.

And the wait was worth it. Brie Larson, who won an Oscar for 2015's Room, takes on the titular role of Captain Marvel, directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck.

Set in 1995, with a toe-tapping soundtrack to match, the film follows US Air Force pilot Carol Danvers on her journey to become one of the most powerful heroes in the history of the Marvel comics.

It pre-dates any of the films about the Avengers, including 2008's Iron Man and

unites her with a younger Nick Fury (a de-aged Samuel L. Jackson), when he still has both eyes and is pushing paper as a low-ranking member of S.H.I.E.L.D. and a truly scene-stealing cat.

When we meet her, Larson's character is far from earth and a member of Kree's Starforce, on the side of Yon Rogg (Jude Law), Minn-Erva (Gemma Chan) and the Supreme Intelligence (Annette Bening) as the Krees wage war on the Skrulls, including Talos (Ben Mendelsohn).

If you're a fan of the comics, you will know this war is a legendary part of Marvel folklore but don't worry if you're coming in blind.

The film's deft script, penned by Boden, Fleck and Geneva Robertson-Dworet, rattles along at a crackling pace and carries you along with it with enough references for the die-hard fans and pleasing gags for the newly initiated.

It also takes seriously the fact this is

Marvel's first film about a woman and does not shy away from addressing the misogyny Danvers faces (a male pilot tells her there is a reason it's called a "cockpit"), regardless of which planet she is on.

But it is also a celebration of friendship and endurance. The relationship between her and Air Force pal Maria Rambeau (Lashana Lynch) is touching and there is a montage about perseverance that has reduced grown women to tears.

While the film sets up the events that will unfold in Avengers: Endgame (due out in April), it is Captain Marvel who is pitched to be the future of the film series, taking the place of founding members such as Iron Man, Thor and Captain America.

And it is Captain Marvel who is the hero we need right now.

Released: March 8
RATING: 8/10

SUPER: Brie Larson as Captain Marvel
PA Photo/Marvel Studios/Chuck Zlotnick



Rune Temte as Ron-Char and Jude Law as the leader of Starforce

PA Photo/Marvel Studios/Film Frame



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PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included. However, you can add the details of your event to our website at **www.yellowad.co.uk**

Friday, March 8

- Art Exhibition, Becoming Easter by Elizabeth Gray King – Christ Church, Wickford. 10am to 4pm. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until Easter Sunday. Contact Samuel Cyma on 01268 440845 or Mrs Westgarth on 01268 733932.
- Live music – Preview, RNA Club, 73-79 East Street, Prittlewell, Southend, SS2 6LQ. Lightspeed, 8.30pm to midnight. Life membership £1.
- Mighty Mites parent and toddler drop-in session – Civic Hall, Grays, 9.15am-12.45pm.
- Introduction to silk painting and porcelain painting – Royal Naval Association, 73-79 East Street, Southend, SS2 6LQ. 9.45am to noon. £6. No experience needed.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivertreecentre.org.uk.
- Overeaters Anonymous Basildon Group – Nevenden Community Hall, St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Basildon, SS13 1BZ. 8pm, Colin, 07446 080054.
- George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, over-50s, beginners tai chi: 10am to noon, darts: 2-4pm, marquetry: 10am to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm. Snooker and bingo, £2, 01268 465854.
- Sequence Dancing – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 2.15-3.15pm, 01268 465854.
- Book Club – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 10-11am. 01268 465854.
- Drama Classes – Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, designed to increase children's life skills. Call Dina 01245 328680.
- Table Tennis – Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, off High Street, for over-50s, 11am-1pm, 07931 564105.

Saturday, March 9

- Saturday Club – for people with special

- needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon. 01268 415409.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivertreecentre.org.uk.
- Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini-tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07955 671289.
- Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, 01702 437863.

Sunday, March 10

- Jazz – Royal British Legion, Northview Drive, Westcliff, Ron Spack's Jazz Trio, 1pm, free admission. Details: 01702 347581.
- Family service – Christ Church, Wickford, 10.30am.
- Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, 9.15am-12.15pm, 01277 627043.
- Exercise Class for stroke victims – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
- Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS2 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
- King's Church, Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am to noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourios and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am to noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), 10.45-11.45am, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 07757 658799.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut – behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell, 10am to noon. Membership £3.

Monday, March 11

- Walking football sessions – Civic Hall, Grays, 6-7pm. £2 per session.
- Ron Spack's Jazztet, Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 8.30pm. 01702 512819.
- Bowls – F&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon. All-weather green, free coaching,

- details 01268 416467.
- Green bowls – Mopsies Park, Vange, details 01268 558756.
- Coffee Morning and sale of goods – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon.
- Club 50+ – 1B Queen's Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call 07880 035968, or just turn up.
- Dance Class – ballroom, Latin American, Ashington and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Turn up or call 01268 727915.
- Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Counselling Service – Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivertreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Frymores Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.
- Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 11.5pm-4.30pm. 01702 343611 or 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Blvd, Southend, all standards, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, Bowers and Pitsea Football Club, Crown Avenue, Pitsea, SS13 2BE. 07913 426371, join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Short Mat Bowls Club – Westwood School, Hadleigh, welcomes new members Monday and Wednesday evenings, Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls, Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Monday 2-4pm, 01268 465854.
- Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Ghylgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.

- Evening of clairvoyance – 57 Point Road, Canvey SS8 7TT. 3pm, £3 all profits to charity. Tel: 07922 001433 or 01268 691922.
- Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15-8.15pm. 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.
- Hadleigh Castle Townswomen's Guild – Appliance Hall, Old Fire Station, High Street SS7 2PA, 1.30-3.30pm. Visitors £2.50.
- IT help sessions – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Details 01277 624624.
- Couples. Table tennis, snooker, 8-10pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Ashington. Drop in or call 01702 548597.

Tuesday, March 12

- Painting class – The Studio, Glebeclands Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY. 10.30am-12.30pm. Details 01702 30717.
- Folk Music – The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm. 01702 715111.
- Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff. Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
- Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15pm, £2.50.
- Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh. 2.30-4pm. 01702 471873.
- Singles Social Group – The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park, Southend, age 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.
- Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus – South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.
- Vange Tots – Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, 01268 498642.
- Table Top Sale – Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, supporting people with lung problems. 01702 258661.
- Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-11.55pm.
- Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group – Frymores Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, Basildon, SS14 2TJ, 9.30am-2pm.
- New and nearly new stall – outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, (if wet in church foyer), 10am to noon.
- Scrabble Club – Hockley Social Centre (rear of library), 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, 01702 205910.
- Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.

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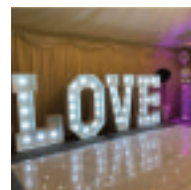
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STARTER

- Leek & Potato Soup, Leek Oil & Parsnip Crisps
- Ham Hock Terrine, Olive Bread & House Chutney
- Chicken Liver Pate, Ciabatta Sticks & House Piccalilli
- Breaded Whitebait, Dressed Rocket, Cajun & Lime Mayonnaise
- Smoked Salmon Mousse, Roe & Rye Bread
- Traditional Prawn Cocktail, Brown Bread & Butter
- Ricotta & Basil Tartlet, Basil Oil & Wild Herbs

MAIN

- Roast Leg of Lamb, Pea Puree, Mint Jelly, Goose Fat Potatoes with Red Current Gravy
- Corn-fed Supreme of Chicken Breast, Apricot & Cranberry Stuffing, Goose Fat Roasted Potatoes with Thyme Gravy
- 8oz Sirloin Steak, Skin on Fried, Portobello Mushroom & Heritage Tomatoes
- Tagliatelle Polpette, Mascarpone & Tomato Sauce, French Baguette & Garlic Butter
- Baked Cod with Clam Chowder, Mussels & Crispy Bacon
- Spiced tomato & Gruyere Tartlets, Fennel Jam & Baby Basil
- Mushroom & Truffle Risotto, Parmesan Crisp & Garlic Chives

DESSERT

- Chocolate and Vanilla Mousse with Peanut & Chocolate Popcorn
- Strawberries, Meringue, Mint Jelly & Strawberry Puree
- Gooseberry Fool, Elderflower Liquor & Gingerbread Shortbread
- Baileys crème Brulee with Sable Biscuit
- Cherry Panna Cotta, Dipped Cherries and Oreo Crumb
- 3 Cheese & Crackers, House Chutney, Grapes & Figs

**Menu subject to change*

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Property



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New homes of the week Solbywood Farm, Hadleigh

A THOUGHTFULLY designed enclave of 46 stunning new homes built to an exacting and exceptional standard. Solbywood Farm offers a diverse selection of three, four and five bedroom luxury homes.

Nestling in the heart of semi-rural Daws Heath, surrounded by protected ancient woodland and nature reserves, this area is synonymous with a quiet lifestyle steeped in history near sites such as Hadleigh Castle.

This is complemented by a variety of supermarkets alongside bespoke boutique shops, as the development is situated between both Hadleigh and Thundersley town centres.

The developer has spared no expense in finishing each house to an exceptionally high standard rarely seen in new homes, giving clients the peace of mind they are moving into a beautifully finished home.

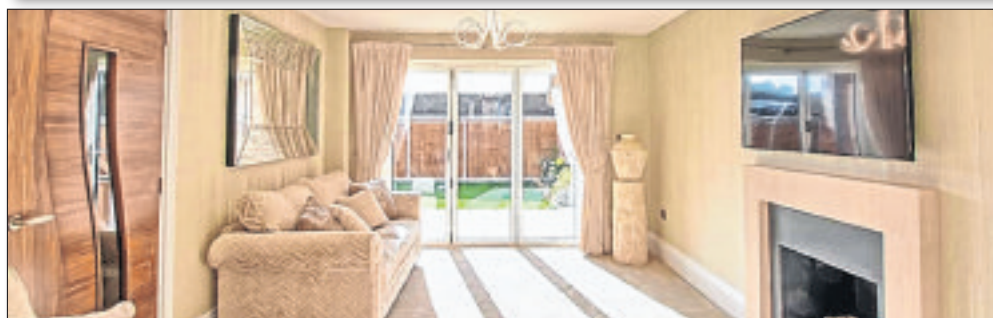
Kitchens feature granite worktops and Neff appliances with Quooker® hot water taps, porcelain floor tiling and Sonos® music systems.

Bathrooms, en suites and cloakrooms are fitted in contemporary suites with porcelain tiling throughout. All remaining rooms are fully carpeted with LED downlights.

Each property features a single or double garage with electric roller doors and paved driveway. Gardens are turfed with patios and will feature either fences or walls. You will be hard pushed to find a new home built to such an exacting standard.

Prices from £465,000

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SOLBYWOOD FARM

Luxury Living In Rural Retreat

A thoughtfully designed enclave of 46 stunning new homes built to an exacting and exceptional standard.

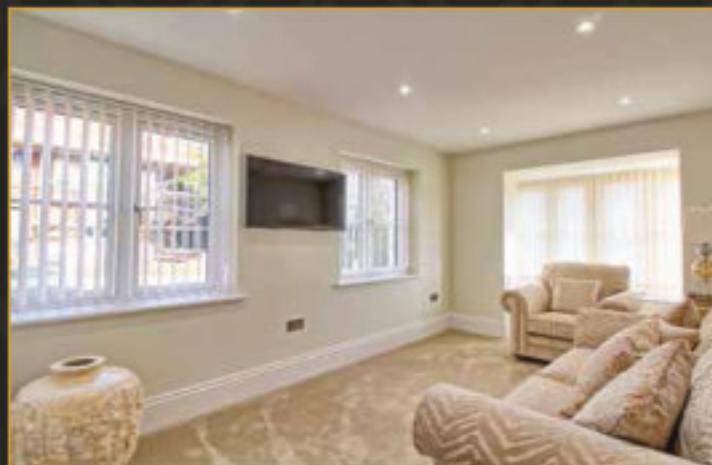
Solbywood Farm offers a diverse selection of stunning and thoughtfully designed three, four and five bedroomed luxury new homes built to an exceptional standard rarely seen in new homes.

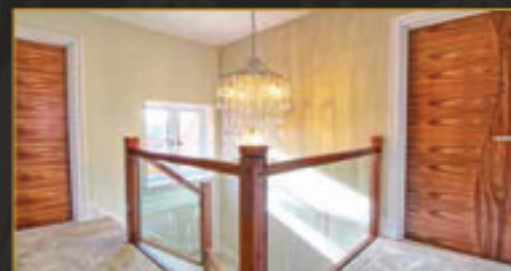
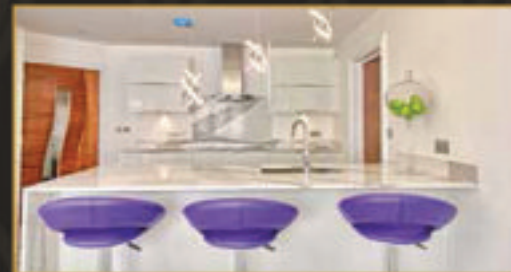
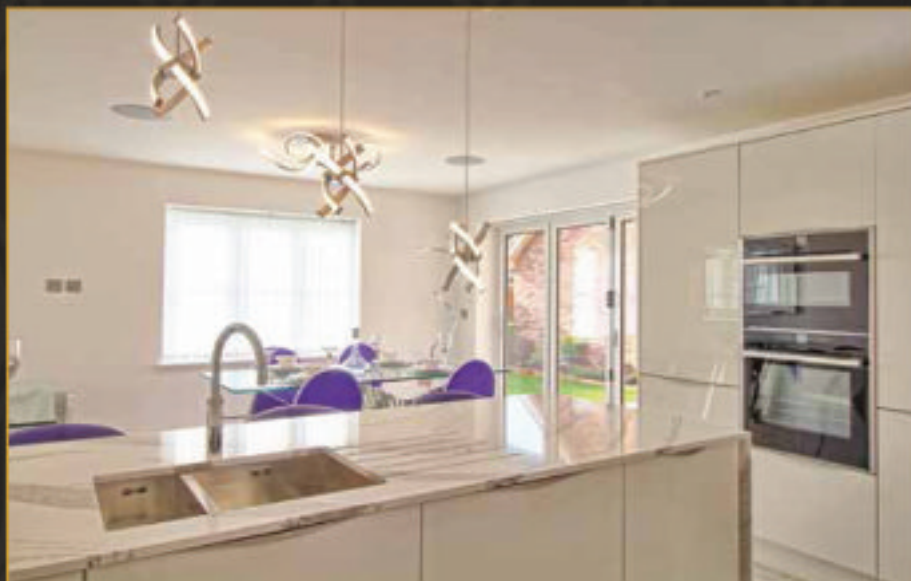
Nestling in the heart of the semi-rural Daws Heath surrounded by protected ancient woodland and nature reserves, this area has become synonymous with a quiet and semi-rural lifestyle seeped in history

alongside historical sites such as the famous Hadleigh Castle. This is complimented by a vibrant and varied array of both large high street supermarkets alongside bespoke boutique shops, as the development is situated directly between both Hadleigh and Thundersley town centres.

No expense has been spared in finishing each and every house to an exceptionally high standard rarely seen in new homes, giving clients the peace of mind they are moving into a beautifully finished home.

Professionally designed kitchens feature granite worktops and high-quality Neff appliances with Quooker® hot water taps, porcelain floor tiling and Sonos® music systems.



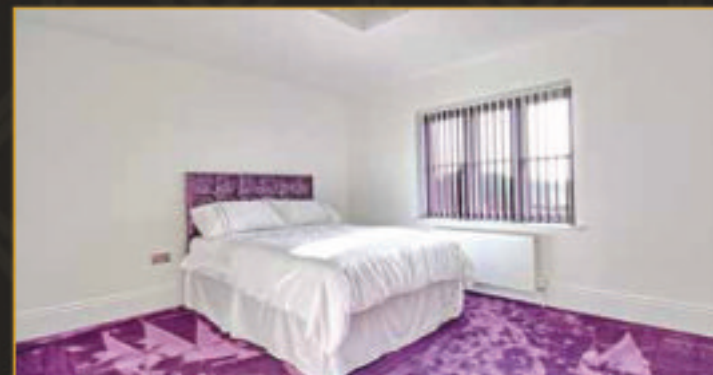
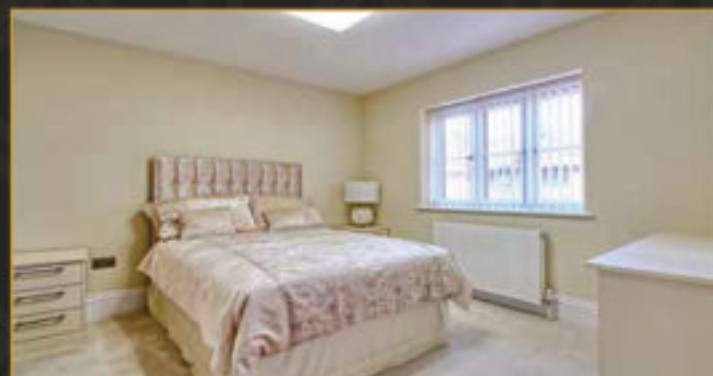


Bathrooms, en suites and cloakrooms are fitted in contemporary suites with porcelain tiling throughout, complimented by solid walnut interior doors with matching walnut and glass staircase balustrading.

All remaining rooms are fully carpeted and finishing touches such as brushed steel power points and light switches, LED downlights and Alarm systems are a small example of the attention to detail throughout the development.


Exteriors are carefully designed with either facing brickwork, rendering or New England style boarding with contrasting Fascias and Soffits (plot dependent) and all have handmade clay roof tiles. Each property features either a single or double garage, with electric roller doors and block paved driveway. All gardens are turfed with patios and will feature either fenced or walled boundaries.

You will be hard pushed to find a new home situated in an area which offers such an escape from the hustle and bustle of day to day life whilst still providing amenities and access your modern life regularly requires built to such an exacting standard.



Contact Details
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Prices from £465,000

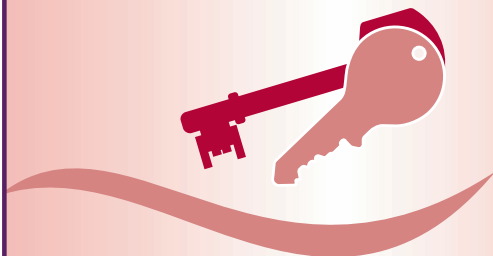


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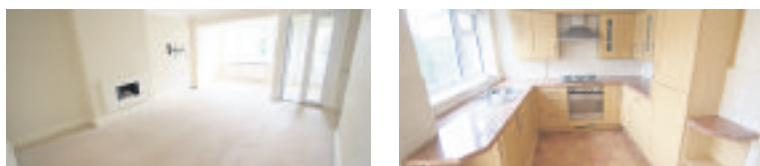
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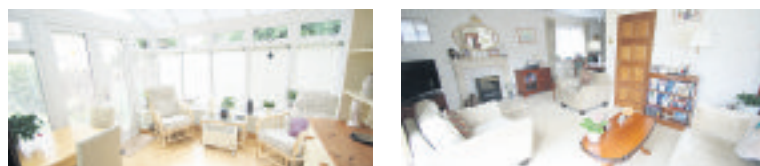
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Properties With Development Potential Urgently Required



SOUTHEND ON SEA £190,000

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- Spacious Lounge
- Private Parking
- Communal Garden
- No Onward Chain
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- UPVC Double Glazing & Gas C/Heating



RAYLEIGH £173,000

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Rayleigh £192,500

This competitively priced, charming first floor one double bedroom flat is situated in a prime location, just a short walk away from Rayleigh's mainline station and vibrant town centre, with all the excellent amenities it affords. Boasting a modern, integrated kitchen and a bright and airy lounge/diner this perfect home would be the ideal property for commuters, first time buyers and investor alike and also offers the additional convenience of allocated off street parking too. Book your viewing today with our friendly team.

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



Eastwood £315,000

Situated in one of the most sought after locations of Eastwood is this three bedroom semi detached chalet, being in a great position for beautiful walks to Hockley Woods, Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park and Grove Woods. The property is in need of some modernisation but benefits from good size versatile accommodation which could easily be adapted as an annexe, ideal for an au-pair, elderly or teenager member of the family as there is a bedroom, bathroom and separate kitchen so they can have their own space. There are local amenities, shops and public transport only a short walk away. In addition, Rayleigh High Street and Train Station (Liverpool Street) are only a short drive or bus journey away. Call now to arrange a viewing.



Rayleigh £365,000-£370,000

Being offered Chain Free is this three bedroom extended family home. Located in a sought after location of Rayleigh which is within walking distance to Mainline Station, Rayleigh Town Centre and close to excellent local schools for all ages. All this home needs is as family - benefitting from having a double storey extension containing dining room and cloakroom to ground floor and 19' master bedroom to the first floor, your family will have room to spread out. This could be the perfect purchase - call now to arrange an internal viewing to appreciate the spacious accommodation on offer.



Hockley £129,950

This one bedroom park home is situated on the established Hockley park home development, providing park home living with peace and tranquillity in a secure and pleasant surrounding. Situated in a great location with views across open farmland and a conservation area towards the River Crouch, ideal for nature lovers or dog lovers having plenty of beautiful walks The park is available for the semi-retired and retired over 45's. The property has its own off street parking and wrap around garden - call now to arrange an internal viewing.



Eastwood £290,000

Being offered Chain Free is this three bedroom semi detached chalet style house, offering plenty of potential and is ideal for someone that is looking for a project as the property needs a little tender loving care. The property is situated in a popular location and is within the Heycroft school catchment area and is conveniently situated for the A127 and yet close enough for Rayleigh station if you need to commute to Southend or London - call now to arrange an internal viewing.

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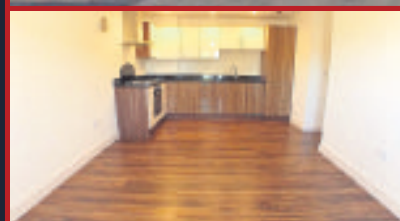
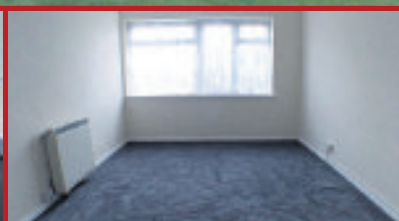


New Build Apartments £280,000

Prices From £280,000 The Residences is a beautiful and stylish brand new development of 6 two-bedroom contemporary apartments built to a very high specification, conveniently located in Thundersley, Essex close to Rayleigh and Benfleet stations with easy access to the A127 and A13 for London and the M25. Almost opposite is the popular and well-known Virgin Active gym. The apartments are fitted with fully fitted Moylans kitchens featuring Siemens appliances and quartz worktops, fully tiled shower rooms, enjoy the sun-trap of the communal roof garden with friends and other resident and beautiful New England Wooden Shutters.

Hullbridge £340,000

Occupying a most sought after village location is this two bedroom detached bungalow, situated close to the River Crouch and Kendals nature reserve with its great walks just a short stroll away. Offering plenty of potential and benefitting from having 19' kitchen/diner, Natural light flooded lounge, conservatory with French doors leading to well maintained wrap around rear garden, detached garage and independent driveway. With easy access to all local amenities, train stations just a short drive away, this could be the perfect purchase for you. Call now to arrange an internal viewing.



Leigh On Sea £795 PCM

A two bedroom ground floor flat, has just been decorated and is in the process of having new carpets fitted. Situated on the edge of the popular Belfairs Estate and is within easy reach of Belfairs Golf Course, Woods and School. This property also has a garage and is within very easy reach of the A127. JUST REDUCED

Wickford £895 PCM

A stunning two bedroom first floor apartment located a short walk from the mainline railway station to London and Wickford Town Centre shops and amenities. The property boasts high quality fittings throughout, open plan lounge and kitchen with granite work tops, modern shower room and secure allocated off street parking.

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Martingale, THUNDERSLEY / £550,000



KING JOHN
CATCHMENT



Well Presented Four Bedroom Detached Family Home \ Lounge 18'8 x 13'10 \ Dining Room 12'10 Into Bay x 10'7 \ Kitchen 12'1 x 11'11 \ Conservatory 12'9 x 12'9 \ Utility Room \ Ground Floor W.C \ Bedroom One 15'1 x 12'1 \ En-Suite Shower Room \ Bedroom Two 15'2 x 9'3 \ Bedroom Three 9'11 x 9'6 \ Bedroom Four 10'8 x 9'2 \ Low Maintenance Secluded Rear Garden \ Off Street Parking \ Garage \ Full Alarm System Including Garage \ Easy Access Of Thundersley Village, Amenities & Virgin Active \ Close To A127 & A13 Trunk Roads \ King John Catchment \ Viewings Advised \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

Arnolds Way, ASHINGDON / £350,000



NO
ONWARD
CHAIN



Splendid Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow \ No Onward Chain \ Spacious Lounge 17'5 X 12'11 \ Kitchen 14'9 X 9'7 \ Bedroom One 11'8 X 9'2 \ Bedroom Two 12'7 X 11' \ Shower Room 6'4 X 5'3 \ Garden \ Garage \ Off Street Parking \ Located Within Walking Distance To Shops At Ashingdon Road \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 or live chat at amosestates.com**

Lower Road, HOCKLEY / £625,000



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THUNDERSLEY \ O.I.E.O £380,000



FOR SALE

Spacious Four Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home \ Entrance Hall 13' x 7' \ Lounge 20'2 x 10'10 \ Kitchen/Diner 17'7 x 7'10 \ Ground Floor W.C \ Bedroom One 13'10 x 10'6 \ Bedroom Two 12'9 x 8'3 \ Bedroom Three 12' x 7'2 \ Bedroom Four 8'5 x 8'1 \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ Secluded Rear Garden Measuring 70ft Approx \ Garage \ Off Street Parking \ Burglar Alarm & CCTV System \ Easy Access Of Local Shops, Amenities, Local Schools & Thundersley Village \ Close To A127 & A13 Trunk Roads \ Sole Agents \ Viewings Advised \ EPC- E \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

THUNDERSLEY \ £299,995



FOR SALE

Good Size Three Bedroom Chalet Bungalow \ Lounge 25'8 x 11'1 \ Conservatory 14'10 x 7'11 \ Kitchen 9'11 x 8'2 \ Ground Floor Bedroom Three 9'11 x 8'6 \ Ground Floor Bathroom \ Bedroom One 13'5 x 9'5 \ Bedroom Two 10'8 x 10'7 \ Secluded Rear Garden Measuring 35ft Approx \ Garage \ Off Street Parking \ UPVC Double Glazing \ Gas Central Heating \ Quite Cul De Sac Location \ Short Distance From Thundersley Village, Local Shops, Local Schools, Amenities & Thundersley Common \ Easy Access Of A127 & A13 Trunk Roads \ No Onward Chain \ Viewings Advised \ EPC- E \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

HADLEIGH \ £299,995



FOR SALE

Good Size Two Bedroom Semi Detached House \ Lounge/Diner 28'1 x 12'7 With Lounge Measuring 12'7 x 15'5 & Dining Area Measuring 11'10 x 9'3 \ Kitchen 9'5 x 8'6 \ Bedroom One 12'6 Into Wardrobes x 10'9 \ Bedroom Two 12'5 x 9'4 \ Shower Room 9'4 x 8'10 & Separate W.C \ South Facing Rear Garden \ Garage 15' x 9'5 \ Off Street Parking \ Potential To Convert Back Into Three Bedrooms If Desired \ UPVC Double Glazing Throughout \ Gas Central Heating \ Extremely Popular & Convenient Location \ Close To Town Centre, Doctors, Dentist & Major Supermarket \ Good School Catchments \ Sole Agent \ Viewings Advised \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

Vernon Avenue, RAYLEIGH \ From £400,000



FOR SALE



Four Bedroom Semi-Detached Family House \ Lounge 13'5 X 10'4 \ Family Space 11'2 X 6'6 \ Designer Kitchen/Dining Room 23'4 X 14'8 \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Ground Floor Bedroom Four 10'8 X 10'5 \ Galleried Landing \ Bedroom One 11'3 X 10'5 \ Bedroom Two 11'1 X 10'4 \ Bedroom Three 10' X 6'7 \ Large Rear Garden with Summerhouse/Store \ Off Street Parking \ Within Walking Distance To Swayne School \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 or live chat at amosestates.com**

Stanley Road, ASHINGDON \ Guide Price: £400,000 - £425,000



FOR SALE



Stunning Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow \ Dining Room 10' X 9' \ Kitchen 11' X 8' \ Vaulted Lounge 21' X 16' \ Laundry Room 8' X 5' \ Bedroom One 13' X 11' With Walk In Dressing Area \ Bedroom Two 9' X 9' \ Bathroom 11' X 5' \ South Backing Rear Garden \ Front Garden \ Off Street Parking For Multiple Vehicles \ Detached Garage & Office \ Easy Distance of Shops and Train Station \ Must Be Seen Inside \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 or live chat at amosestates.com**

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THUNDERSLEY \ £1,225 pcm



TO LET

A Three Bedroom Fully Refurbished Terrace House In Thundersley \ Lounge 18'08 x 15'11 \ Kitchen - Diner 20'05 x 7'00 \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Bedroom One 14'05 x 7'05 \ Bedroom Two 11'08 x 10'11 \ Bedroom Three 10'10 x 9'04 \ Brand New Bathroom Suite 8'11 x 7'05 \ Off Street Parking \ Good Size Garden \ EPC Band D \ Available Immediately \ Fees Apply \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

EASTWOOD \ £1,050 pcm



TO LET

A Large Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow In Eastwood Close To The Local Amenities \ Lounge - Diner 22'11 x 10'10 \ Conservatory 10'05 x 10'02 \ Modern Kitchen 9'11 x 7'02 \ Bedroom One 11'04 x 10'00 \ Bedroom Two 10'10 x 6'11 \ Shower Room With Separate WC \ Off Street Parking \ Rear Garden With Summer House \ EPC Band D \ Available Immediately \ Fees Apply \ **Call 01702 555888 or live chat at amosestates.com**

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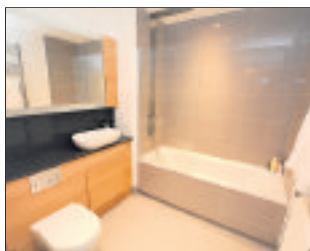
Southend-On-Sea £499,950

SOUGHT AFTER SIUTHCHURCH PARK AREA... Desirable detached four bedroom residence with double garage to rear. First floor bathroom and separete shower room, ground floor cloaks, two reception rooms and 23'6 fitted kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, double glazing, gas central heating, ample off road parking to front. South end of Sandringham Road backing west, close to park, seafront etc. With so few detached properties in the park locality this is indeed a rare opportunity. EPC=tba. Ref: BV022



Southend £150,000

POPULAR MARKS COURT DEVELOPMENT.... Yards from seafront and with easy access to the town centre, stations and amenities, a ground floor one bedroom apartment. Residents parking, spacious layout including lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, double bedroom, and fully tiled bathroom. Double glazing, electric heating. Long lease with 123 years remaining. An excellent first purchase or buy to let investment. EPC=tba. Ref: ebe3872



Southend £180,000

GORGEOUS SOUTH FACING APARTMENT... In favoured contemporary development, weith lift access, luxuriously appointed first floor one bedroom property having superb kitchen with integrated appliances, show piece bathroom with elecvtronic taps/shower etc, secure underground parking. All in immaculate order, and with easy access to the town centre, stations anf facilities. Early viewing is strongly advised. EPC=B. Ref: bv032

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Brook Road, Tillingham

Cottage for Renovation
 This three bedroom detached character period cottage situated in the village of Tillingham which is in need of full renovation with parking, gardens and garage to the side.

Guide: £200,000 Plus + Fees*



Pemberton Gardens, Chadwell Heath

Bungalow for Improvement
 A semi-detached two bedroom bungalow needing modernisation on a corner plot which may offer potential for development, subject to the necessary consents being obtainable. EPC: D

Guide: £290 - £300,000 + Fees*



Chapel Street, Billericay

Residential Investment
 This first floor two bedroom maisonette with its own garden and garage is located half a mile from the railway station and a stone's throw from the town centre. It is currently let at £11,400 per annum. EPC: C

Guide: £170,000 Plus + Fees*



Old Church Road, East Hanningfield

Freehold Land with Potential
 A strategic parcel of land measuring 1.89 hectares (4.67 acres) with road frontage onto Old Church Road which may offer potential for development, subject to all the necessary consents being obtainable.

Guide: £195,000 Plus + Fees*



Lower Anchor Street, Chelmsford

Vacant Two Bedroom Flat
 This well presented, good sized top floor two bedroom apartment has its own garage with communal gardens within half a mile of Chelmsford railway station and with easy reach of the city centre. EPC: C

Guide: £180,000 Plus + Fees*



East Street, Southend-on-Sea

Semi-Detached House
 A three bedroom house which has recently undergone a programme of refurbishment which may offer potential for extension, subject to all the necessary consents being obtainable. EPC: F

Guide: £240,000 Plus + Fees*



Chapel Street, Billericay

Ground Floor Maisonette
 This vacant two bedroom ground floor maisonette with its own garden, garage and parking is located within half a mile of the railway station and a stone's throw from Waitrose and town centre. EPC: D

Guide: £180 - £190,000 + Fees*



Carlton Road, Gidea Park

Vacant Shop with Flat Above
 A mixed use property situated in a parade of shops within walking distance of town and the mainline railway station. This former newsagent with flat above is now in need of modernisation. EPCs: G & E

Guide: £290 - £300,000 + Fees*

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RAYLEIGH - £565,000



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RAYLEIGH GUIDE £350,000 - £355,000



Essex Guild Homes are Delighted to Offer for sale this VERY well maintained Three Bedroom Family Home just a few minutes walk from Rayleigh High St and Excellent School Catchment Area. 23ft 9 Lounge, 14ft Dining Room, Modern Refurbished Kitchen

RAYLEIGH GUIDE £395,000



STUNNING Four Bed Detached Family Home in a Highly Sought After Location in the Fitzwilliam Catchment Area. Very Spacious and Well Planned Property with 20ft Lounge, 20ft Open Plan Kitchen / Dining Room, Study, Utility Room, G/F w.c., Luxury En-Suite to Master &

RAYLEIGH GUIDE £550,000 - £550,000



This Site Includes: approx 1.4 Acres, Three Bedroom Family Home, Stable Block (Two Reception Rooms), Club House (with Bar, dance space & toilet facilities), Gym, One Bed Two Storey Barn (ideal for change of use), Garage block (Two). Also Suit Business use, Equestrian, Maybe Development (STPP)

RAYLEIGH - £950,000



WOW... What a Beautiful Home. Set in One of the Most Desirable Parts of Eastwood just minutes from Country Walks and also Local Amenities. Stunning L Shaped Conservatory with Reception / Family Area and a Huge Hot Tub! Fantastic Size Lounge and Kitchen/Breakfast

EASTWOOD £650,000



ROOM TO EXTEND... Three bed detached family home near train station. Space to side for 2 storey extension STPP. 15ft lounge/dining rm, conservatory, 13ft fitted kitchen, wrap around garden, garage & parking

Guide £400,000 - £410,000



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More drivers make switch to electric

by Mike Torpey

UK electric car registrations continue to set records as latest figures place the total number of new 100 per cent electric and plug-in hybrid cars registered last year at 59,911.

That return makes it the most successful year for electric cars to date and equates to one new electric car registration every nine minutes in the UK.

The total also means the market grew by 19 per cent compared to 2017.

The end-of-year figure marks a continued trend of consumers and businesses switching to ultra-low emission vehicles.

The fourth quarter of the year saw a further 15,057 plug-in cars registered between October and December in 2018.

Once again plug-in hybrids accounted for the bulk of the market with 74 per cent of registrations.

Pure electric cars also saw a significant boost in 2018, up 14 per cent on the previous year and taking the number of 100 per cent electric and plug-in hybrid cars registered in the



CHARGING AHEAD: The Kia e-Niro

UK to date to 196,343.

From a regional perspective, the South East saw the highest demand across the nation, with 21,383 pure electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles

registered – a 24 per cent increase on 2017.

Other leading regions include the West Midlands (8,601), South West (8,354), East Anglia (5,672), and

Yorkshire and the Humber (5,344), making up the top five British regions for electric car uptake.

Last year was the seventh consecutive year of growth for the electric car

market, thanks to the increasing number of models available for consumers and businesses, as well as a trend for consumers making more sustainable choices.

In fact, recent research by Go Ultra Low found that nearly a fifth of Brits would like to make the switch to an electric vehicle in 2019.

The year ahead certainly has the potential to be another strong year for registrations as a range of new models are set to hit the market, including the new all-electric Kia e-Niro, Audi e-tron and recently announced Nissan LEAF which will feature an increased battery size.

Poppy Welch, the head of Go Ultra Low, said: "In the context of the wider new car market, it is fantastic to see plug-in car registrations continue to go from strength-to-strength."

"Looking at the year ahead, 2019 is set to be a pivotal one for the electric car market."

"With even more new models being released, coupled with the introduction of initiatives such as London's Ultra Low Emission Zone, we're confident that the next 12 months will be a landmark year for the nation's switch to electric."

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (East) (No.12) Order 2019" authorising the stopping up of southern part width of Hillside Road consisting highway verge at Eastwood, in the District of Rochford to enable development as permitted by Rochford District Council, reference 15/00795/OUT.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/E/ S247/3551) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Customer Services, Rochford Council, South Street, Rochford SS4 1BW.

Any person aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 06 March 2019 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

G Patrick, Casework Manager

JOHN ROBERT MARSHALL Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of Flat 705, Homecove House, Holland Road, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 8TF, who died on 14/02/2019, must send written particulars to the address below by 09/05/2019, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

Tolhurst Fisher LLP
Trafalgar House, Nelson Street, Southend on Sea, Essex SS1 1EF Ref: LH/MAR/134-5

DORIS MAY WARD Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of Blackthorns Residential Home, Dooley Road, Halstead, CO9 1JW formerly of Flat 11 Homerowan House, Station Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex, SS1 3LU, who died on 15/02/2018, must send written particulars to the address below by 09/05/2019, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

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Football

by Brian Jeeves

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West Ham Utd 2-0 Newcastle Utd
FIRST-HALF goals from Declan Rice and Mark Noble secured impressive West Ham Premier League success on Saturday evening.

West Ham eased to a three-goal victory when the sides met at St James' Park in December.

But Hammers manager Manuel Pellegrini recognised the improvement by the Magpies.

It has taken a while, but West Ham supporters finally seem to be getting their feet under the table at the London Stadium. Following an emotional ceremony, which saw the east Londoners name the east side of the ground The Billy Bonds Stand, the home side provided a punchy, crisp performance.

Hammers fans raised the roof following an explosive start – their team hitting the front after seven minutes. Rice providing a firm header after a Robert Snodgrass corner picked out the 20-year-old.

Javier Manquillo received lengthy treatment after the Magpies' Spanish defender clashed heads with Aaron Cresswell – the Hammers man departing the scene shortly after, replaced by Arthur Masuaku.

West Ham were playing the brighter football. Manuel Lanzini was looking to make up for lost time, tiptoeing through a static Magpies backline.

Five minutes before the break West Ham were presented with a chance to double their advantage.

Florian Lejeune sent Javier Hernandez tumbling and Hammers skipper Noble emphatically dispatched the spot-kick, high beyond keeper Martin Dubravka.

Newcastle failed to produce a genuine threat in the opening period. Nevertheless, it took a won-



RICE 'N EASY: West Ham United's Declan Rice scores his side's first goal at the London Stadium

Photo: Paul Harding/PA Wire

der-tackle from Issa Diop to deny Fabian Schar.

Salomon Rondon finally warned Lukasz Fabianski's gloves shortly after the break. Meanwhile, Hernandez was unable to divert goalwards after Lanzini had picked him out from the left.

Masuaku, inadvertently deflected Rondon's powerful header to safety as West Ham continued to snub out the visitors' efforts. Then, record signing, Miguel Almiron, tried his luck from distance as Newcastle searched for a foothold.

West Ham's 11th league victory of the season rarely looked in doubt.

Snodgrass almost added a third with a cheeky backheel after work form Anderson and Lanzini. Then, he was too high with his free-kick following Mohamed Diamé's clumsy foul on the busy Lanzini.

In the final minutes, Rondon hit an upright with an angled free-kick while Lanzini forced Dubravka

into a save low to his left after Arnautovic had set him up.

After the game Pellegrini said: "We started exactly how we wanted. We scored two goals and kept the clean sheet so I am very happy about that."

He played down suggestions his side are the most improved in the Premier League this season, adding: "I don't compare those things. For me, our team must try to improve the next game. I think that we are able to improve in every game and this is a team that plays with 60,000 fans at home every game. We need to think like a big team and play like a big team every time."

"If you tell me that Lanzini was injured for eight months, you would not believe it. When you have such a bad injury maybe you are not so comfortable in the first games, you are worried, you don't trust too much in yourself to tackle or make good passes. But Manuel changed

our game. He is a player giving good assistance to the forwards – always receiving the ball, always asking for the ball. I don't remember him losing one pass tonight."

West Ham are next in action on Saturday, March 9 at Cardiff City (3pm).

West Ham: Lukasz Fabianski, Aaron Cresswell (Arthur Masuaku 33'), Felipe Anderson, Manuel Lanzini, Robert Snodgrass, Mark Noble (capt) (Pedro Obiang 80'), Javier Hernandez (Marko Arnautovic 70'), Angelo Ogbonna, Issa Diop, Ryan Fredericks, Declan Rice Subs not used: Adrian, Samir Nasri, Arthur Masuaku, Lucas Perez, Michail Antonio
Newcastle United: Martin Dubravka, Fabian Schar (Paul Dummett 65'), Jamaal Lascelles (capt), Salomon Rondon, Matt Ritchie, Isaac Hayden (Christian Atsu 80'), Ayoze Perez, Javier Manquillo, Florian Lejeune, Miguel Almiron, Sean Longstaff (Mohamed Diamé 46') Subs not used: Karl Darlow, Ki Sung-Yueng, Yoshinori Muto, DeAndre Yedlin

Referee: Chris Kavanagh
Assistants: Daniel Cook and Simon Bennett

Fourth Official: Graham Scott
Attendance: 59,910

THE BIG MATCH

CARDIFF CITY v WEST HAM UNITED

Premier League

Cardiff City Stadium, Saturday March 9, 3pm

Non-league football

O's title charge picks up pace

LEYTON Orient remain in contention for the National League title after a stunning 30-yard Jordan Maguire-Drew goal and a Josh Coulson header secured a narrow 2-1 win at struggling Havant & Waterlooville.

In between, Alfie Rutherford had given the south coast outfit hope with a 70th-minute equaliser. But the O's prevailed and currently sit third in the table, four points behind leaders, Wrexham, with two games in hand.

Conor Wilkinson bagged a late leveller as Dagenham & Redbridge snatched a share of the spoils at Harrogate Town. Earlier, Callum Howes had given the Yorkshire outfit the lead ten minutes after the interval.

It was another difficult afternoon for Braintree Town. The Iron were comfortably beaten by three unanswered goals at Dover Athletic – Alfie Pavey, Jai Reason and Mitch Brundle on target for the home side.

Chelmsford City and Concord Rangers played out an entertaining National League South draw at the Melbourne Stadium. Scott Fenwick and Chris Whelpdale scored for the Clarets, while Alex Wall and Jack Midson provided the Beach Boys response – Concord's Tosan Popo saw red in an eventful encounter.

There was derby delight for relegation-haunted East Thurrock United, who stunned high-flying Billericay Town at Rookery Hill. Adam Coombes had given Town an early advantage. However, a Ricky Hayles brace ensured the Rocks victory by the odd goal in three.

Sean Marks gave AFC Hornchurch the lead against Margate at Bridge Avenue. But the Kent club took the points thanks to goals from Tobin Sho-Silva and Kadell Daniel. Bowers & Pitsea took another step towards the Bostik North title with a 2-1 win at Mildenhall Town – Jamie Dicks and James Thomas confirmed the victory after Abouhadje Kouassi had given the home side a first-half lead.

Heybridge Swifts are second after a 2-1 win at Canvey Island. Elliott Ronto and Matthew Price found the net for the Swifts – Martin Tuohy with the Gulls response, Maldon & Tiptree remain in contention – Matthew Briggs, Liam Hope and Jack Cawley (pen) ensuring a 3-0 win over Dereham Town. Aveley won a ding-dong encounter at Great Wakering Rovers 3-2. Alexander Akrofi, Amir Berkane and Harry Gibbs with the Millers' goals – Anthony Martin scoring twice for Rovers.

A goal in each half from Charlee Hughes earned Brentwood Town a 2-0 win over Romford, while Tevan Allen, Nnamdi Nwachuku and Conor Hubble did the damage as Coggeshall Town won 3-0 at Barking.

Joao Carlos and Aron Gordon scored for Grays Athletic in a 2-2 draw with Felixstowe & Walton United.

Basildon United's recent difficulties continued. The Bees were beaten 4-0 at home by AFC Sudbury. It was later confirmed by the club that they had parted company with manager Neil Blackburn.

There were some big winners in the Essex Senior League. St Margaretsbury led the way with a 5-0 victory at Stanway Rovers, while Takeley were also amongst the goals, beating Saffron Walden Town 4-0.

Redbridge were 4-1 winners over Sawbridgeworth Town and there was a 3-1 success for Clapton over West Essex at the Old Spotted Dog ground. Southend Manor eased to a 2-0 triumph against Leyton Athletic at Southchurch Park and Ilford picked up maximum points thanks to a 2-1 win over old adversaries, Barkingside, at the Cricklefield Stadium.

A single goal was enough for Hullbridge Sports at Sporting Bengal United and it was a similar outcome as Walthamstow edged out Tower Hamlets. Elsewhere, Woodford Town and Enfield provided the fireworks, playing out a thrilling 3-3 draw.

Blues completely outclassed by ten-man Tykes

Southend United 0-3 Barnsley Sky Bet League One

By Rowland Lyons at Roots Hall
THE pressure increased on Southend boss Chris Powell after his side were humbled by a Barnsley team forced to survive an hour with ten men after Jacob Brown's straight red card.

Powell warned: "We're in a dogfight – with 11 matches to go. We've got some massive games coming up. We've got to look after ourselves."

In front of Sky TV cameras, the Tykes, unbeaten in 15 games, put pressure on leaders Luton with second-half Cameron McGeehan, Cauley Woodrow and sub Jordan Green strikes.

Barnsley dominated this clash and showed no ill-effects for losing midfielder Brown for a late challenge on Blues skipper Sam Mantom.

Southend offered little in reply, with only lone striker Simon Cox and Michael Lightly managing on-target efforts at either end of the first period. They started the second half on the front foot, but Barnsley soon re-assumed control and on 50 minutes former Blues' loanee Cauley Woodrow fed McGeehan, who beat Bishop with a half-volley at his near-post.

McGeehan's strike inspired the south Yorkshire side and ex-Leeds man Alex Mowatt was the star going close on several occasions.

Powell made a double change on 62 minutes, bringing on attackers Harry Bunn and Charlie Kelman. Kelman was only two yards out – on 72 minutes – on chesting down fellow sub Bunn's cross.

Barely a minute later the Tykes wrapped up the points when Woodrow provided a fine finish.

The visitors' second strike knocked the stuffing out of the Shrimpers, with only Kelman, on the turn, threatening in the closing stages, as they slumped to a tenth home defeat with Green adding insult to injury with a stoppage-time strike.

Powell added: "It has been a really tough one in front of our own fans. We competed well in the first-half, but going down to ten men seemed to galvanize Barnsley."

"We've not competed and we've shown naïveté and inexperience."

"We left ourselves too open and it was a very tough afternoon. You have to be patient and pass the ball, having the extra man. But, we got punished against a good Barnsley side. The fans have been very supportive – since the day I got in here."

"This is when we need them, as we're in a very difficult place at the

moment. We have to do our best to give something back to them. At Southend we have to go as one with the team and supporters."

Southend make the long trip to Blackpool on Saturday (3pm).

Southend United: Nathan Bishop, Elvis Bwomono, Michael Turner, Taylor Moore, Sam Hart, Stephen McLaughlin (Dru Yearwood 87), Sam Mantom (capt) (Charlie Kelman 62), Timothee Dieng, Simon Cox, Michael Klass. Subs (not used): Ted Smith, Luke Hyam, Rob Kiernan, Dru Yearwood, Harry Lennon.

Barnsley: Adam Davies (capt), Dimitri Cavare, Ethan Pinnock, Liam Lindsay, Dani Phillips, Cameron McGeehan, Jacob Brown sent off 34), Alex Mowatt, Kenny Dougall (Jordan Green 75), Mamadou Thiame (Mike Bahre 67), Cauley Woodrow (Adam Jackson 90). Subs (not used): Jack Walton, Ryan Hedges, Jordan Williams, Victor Adebayogo.

Referee: Kevin Johnson
Assistants: Carl Fitch-Jackson, Abbas Khan

Fourth Official: Charles Breakspear
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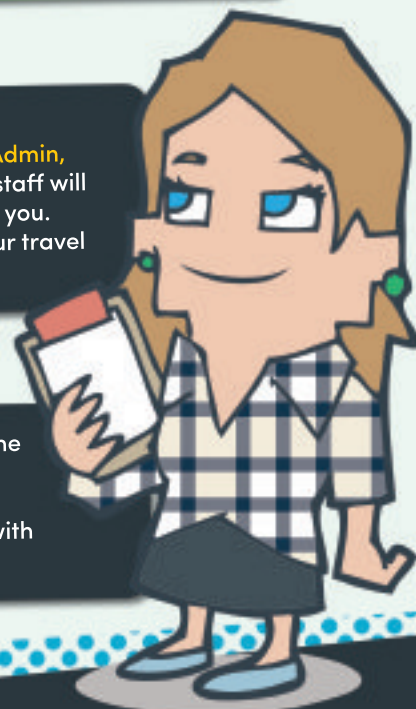
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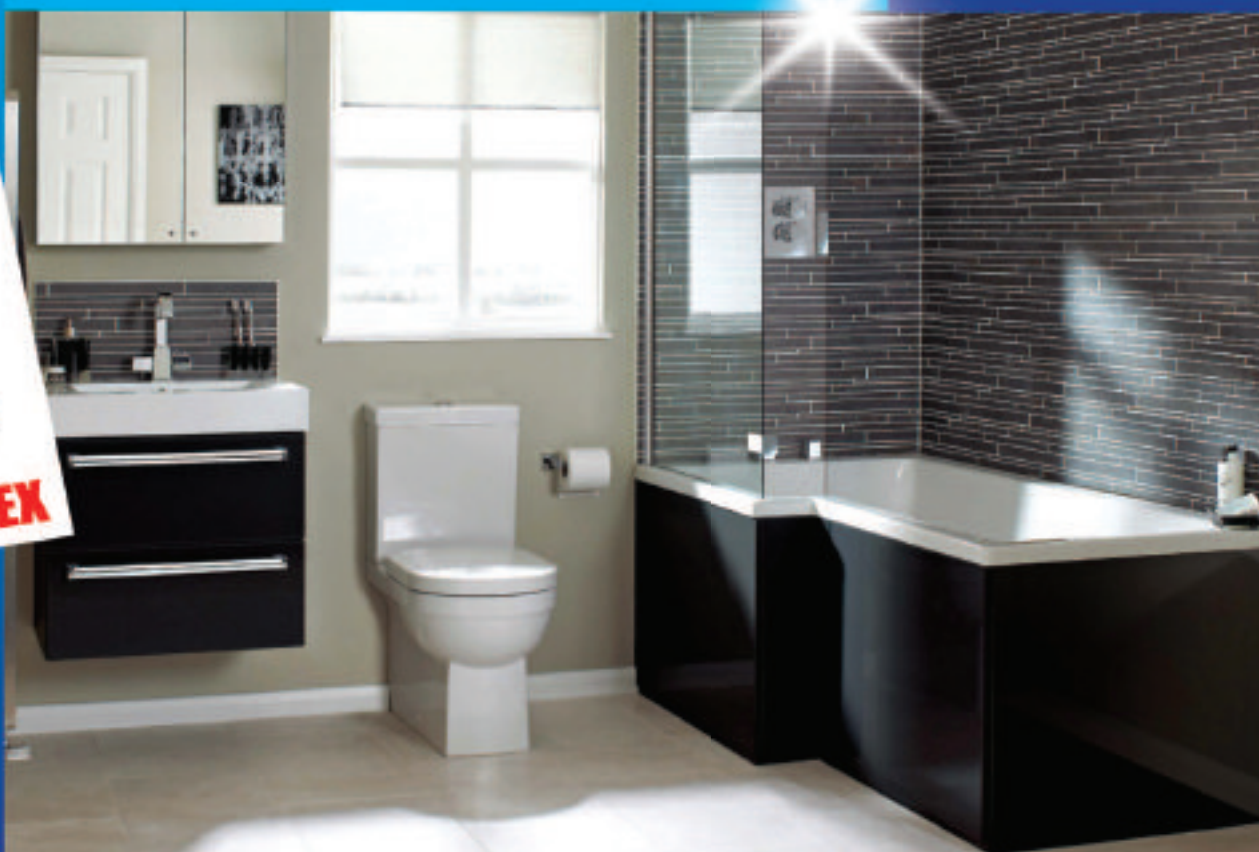
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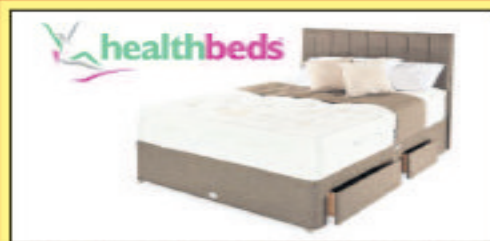
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